

JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

James L. Clifford, Editor—William L. Payne, Ass't. Editor
610 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University,
New York 27, N. Y.

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Boswell Papers to Yale

The most important news in recent years for 18th century scholars is the announcement that the great collection of Boswell manuscripts gathered together by Lieut.—Col. Ralph Isham is to go in its entirety to Yale University. Some Johnson manuscripts once in the possession of Boswell are now held by the Donald Hydes, but, except for these, the bulk of Boswell's known archives is now united in one University library. Included are the papers of the original Malahide Castle discovery, the croquetbox Hebrides manuscript, the lesser finds at Malahide Castle during the next decade, the Fettercairn papers, and finally the familious "cow barn" finds of recent war years. The magnitude of the vast collection can only be appreciated by those who have been privileged to struggle through the huge stacks of letters and miscellaneous documents. It will actually be years before the extent of the new information contained in the papers is apparent.

Yale was able to acquire the collection through a gift from the Old Dominion Foundation, established by Paul Mellon, and by an arrangement with the McGraw-Hill Book Co., which secures exclusive rights to publish the volumes as they appear. Since so much has recently appeared in the newspapers about the collection, there is little need to repeat the facts. A few words, however, may be

added about the present plans for publication.

For the projected edition of the papers there will be four general editors: Frederick A. Pottle, Frederick W. Hilles, Herman W. Liebert, and Edward C. Aswell, Vice-president of McGraw-Hill Co. In addition there will be an Advisory Committee of British and American scholars, who will be named later by President Seymour of Yale. The manuscripts will be published under the general title of The Tale Edition of the Private Papers of James Boswell (IBP, as it will probably be called). Each volume will be issued separately, as soon as it is ready, the first planned to appear

within a year. The complete edition may ultimately run to 40 or 50 volumes.

In Liebert's account of the edition in the Yale Alumni Magazine for October, it is stated that the headquarters for the YBP will be established in the Sterling Library, immediately adjoining the rooms occupied by the staff of the Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence. In this way the editors of both great projects can work in full cooperation, with constant interchange of information and advice. The first task is the cataloguing and copying of the manuscripts, preparatory to publication, and this alone is a major job. Some readers may have wondered if present plans also call for reprinting of the Boswell Papers issued earlier in the expensive limited edition. We are glad to say that these papers will be fitted into the general plan of publication. Moreover, it is hoped that the price of the new edition will be such that it will be within the reach of every genuine 18th century enthusiast and small college library.

In a recent newspaper advertisement Whittlesey House (McGraw-Hill) indicates that the projected series of volumes which it plans will definitely include (1) the whole of Boswell's journals, (2) an edition of his voluminous correspondence, (3) a new and unexpurgated edition of the Life of Johnson (from the original manuscript), (4) a definitive biography of Boswell (the first volume by Frederick A. Pottle is nearing completion and will be published fairly soon), and (5) numerous hitherto unknown works of Johnson, Reynolds, and others of the Johnson circle. Need any more be said to whet the appetite of Johnsonians the world over?

A Report from England

Having spent part of the summer in England, your editor brings back news of Johnsonian activity across the Atlantic. In the past we have found that some readers have had difficulty keeping straight the various organizations: the Johnson Club, the Lichfield Johnson Society, and the Johnson Society of London. Consequently, some little explanation, as we proceed, may be worth while.

The Johnson Club is a small group — at present with only twentysix active and ten honorary members, of whom three are Americans (a list of members has recently been printed). The Club meets quarterly, by tradition in the attic of the Gough Square House. Usually the summer meeting is held outside London. This year a dinner was arranged at St. John's College, Cxford, on July 2. It is our pleasure to report that the dinner was excellent, the talk what lovers of Johnson would expect, and the long summer evening spent wandering about the beautiful college gardens (some of the loveliest in Oxford) one long to be remembered. All thanks are due to the Secretary, Charles Mitchell, and to the President, R.W. Ketton-Cremer, under whose administration the Club flourishes.

The Lichfield Johnson Society, so far as we could ever discover, has no very formal organization or membership. It is best known for its connection with the preservation of the Birthplace, and for the Birthday celebrations every September. Not being able to stay over for the latter, your editor did the next best thing and spent a happy day in Lichfield as the guest of Percy Laithwaite, the mainspring of all Johnsonian activity in that part of the world. Laithwaite is as enterprising as ever — his latest endeavors being the rehabilitation as a shrine of St. Chad's Well — the building of a caretaker's cottage, etc. Lichfield owes much to his farsighted planning and scholarship. We are happy also to report the Birthplace in excellent condition, the collections growing rapidly in importance. The chief news in the city itself is that damage (not from the war) to the beautiful Cathedral spire will necessitate pulling down and rebuilding the top twenty feet.

A much larger and more formal organization is the Johnson Society of London. Meetings are held in the afternoon, the third Saturday in each month (October through April) at the Alpine Club in South Audley St. The Dean of St. Paul's, W.R. Matthews, is President for 1949-50. Since there were no meetings to attend during the summer it was impossible to meet many of the members, but we did have a pleasant afternoon with A. Lloyd-Jones, the indefatigable Honorary Treasurer and Editor of The New Rambler. He is as full of enthusiasm as ever, and reports that the society continues to progress. If any of our readers are interested in becoming members, the annual dues are 10/6, including a subscription to The New Rambler. Write to A. Lloyd-Jones, 102 Gordon Rd., Ealing W. 13, London.

The program for this next season includes: October 22, J.E. Hodgson, "Johnsoniana — an Informal Talk"; November 19, Ronald Taylor, "John Wesley and Dr. Johnson"; December 13, the annual ceremony of laying a wreath on the grave of Johnson in Westminster Abbey; December 17, Arthur G. Kidd, "The Misjudgments of Dr. Johnson"; January 21, Lilian Lindsay, "Dr. Johnson and Scotland"; February 18,

Sir Philip Magnus, "The Character of Edmund Burke"; March 18, F.N. Doubleday, "Some Medical Associations of Samuel Johnson"; April 22, Miss A.J. Philpott, "Educational Ideals in the Eighteenth Century."

In London, of course, one of our principal visits was to the Gough Square House and to one who is inevitably associated in all our minds with the house, Phyllis Rowell. The House is beautifully in order after the renovation; we have indeed never seen it more attractive. The problem of keeping the house in this condition, however, is difficult. The endowment which the late Lord Harms—worth so generously set up for its care, at the time appeared ample, but now is unfortunately insufficient. A committee is actively engaged in trying to work out some arrangement to raise further funds, and it may be necessary to make a public appeal. But more concerning this in a later issue.

We happily had visits with all the active English Johnson scholars except A.L. Reade in Blundellsands. And that omission we will forever lament. The word is, however, that he is working hard on Vol. XI of the Gleanings, which will be a complete index of all his Johnsonian publications, including The Reades of Blackwood Hill. At Cambridge we had a perfect day with S.C. Roberts, now Vice-Chancellor of the University. All his many friends will sincerely hope the arduous administrative duties will not draw him too far away from his 18th century interests. In Oxford D. Nichol Smith was in top form after a visit to Egypt and various trips around England. That he is slowly forging ahead with his great annotated Clarendon edition of Gulliver is welcome news. His volume of Dryden lectures will be published by the Cambridge University Press this autumn. R.W. Chapman's re-editing of Johnson's letters is almost all in page proof. All that remains to complete of L.F. Powell's Vols. V and VI of the Life is a short Preface to Vol. V, so that we may confidently expect next year a large dividend of Johnson volumes from Clarendon.

In any report on 18th century research activity in England we must refer to various delightful sessions we had with E.S. de Beer, Harold Williams, James Sutherland, Geoffrey Tillotson, Bonamy Dobrée, and others. For the traveling American scholar, as many of our subscribers will agree from personal experience this summer, life in England is almost back to pre-war attractiveness. Troubles with food, difficulties with the six-books-a-day limitation at the British Museum, and other petty annoyances fade in the bright light of

of the warm friendly welcome from Bitish scholars and the loveliness of the countryside.

Johnson Birthday Celebrations

In various parts of the world, during the week-end of September 17-18, Johnson was honored as usual. At Lichfield there was the customary celebration, the President that year being D. Nichol Smith. Of his address, R.W. Chapman writes: "D.N.S. was admirable on his favourite theme: Boswell is a commentary on the works of a great moralist and critic. If you can't read Rasselas you may be a Boswellian; you are no Johnsonian." We are eager to see the printed version.

At the Grolier Club in New York City, on the generous invitation of the Donald Hydes, Fritz Lieberts, and the Alfred Kays, a group of some 52 Johnsonians dined on the evening of September 17. Frederick B. Adams of the Morgan Library acted as Master-of-Ceremonies, and there were short talks by Thomas Copeland, F.W. Hilles, E.L. McAdam Jr., and your editor. Ralph Isham, who could not be present, sent messages and presents to those who had helped in settling the final disposition of the Boswell Papers. And Fritz Liebert had prepared as a souvenir for all those present an attractive little brochure: Dr. Johnson and the Misses Collier (including a facsimile of an unpublished manuscript of Johnson). Around the walls of the room were hung Johnsonian pictures from the great Adam Collection, now in the possession of the Hydes. In the afternoon of the 17th Frederick Adams had arranged a tea at the Morgan Library and an exhibition of letters and manuscripts of Johnson and his circle. Since we have so often in the past used the phrase "memorable occasion," we can't use that again. But it was a wonderful day for the Eastern Johnsonians; that is certain!

There were similar extensive celebrations (believe it or not!) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Albert Hall-Johnson has sent us a newspaper clipping from The Standard describing the preparations. On September 14 there was to be an exhibition of Johnsonian books at the "Cultura Inglesa," with a lecture by Hall Johnson. Then on the 17th at the English Club the traditional supper was to take place. The next day at St. John's Church Canon Marshall planned to preach a Johnson sermon, with the choir singing the Johnson anthem. Mitchell's Bookstore was arranging a Johnson window (stressing the Argentinian edition of Krutch's life of Johnson); and illustrated articles were to appear in Mundo Argentino and The Argentine Magazine

As a sample of the extensive planning of Hall Johnson, surely one of the most active Johnsonians in any hemisphere, we quote from the newspaper clipping: "At 8:30, the Toastmaster, Mr. J.W. Sharples will take the Chair and the Craftsmen's Chorus will sing the 'Laudi Spirituali' Grace; Mr. I.G. Drysdale is the Punch-maker. The Toast List is as follows: 'The Immortal Memory,' proposed by Mr. Hall Johnson, 'The Ladies,' proposed by Mr. Lloyd-Davies and responded to by Mrs. Guy Marshall, 'Press, Publishers and Book-sellers,' proposed by Dr. R. Caldwell, Cultural Attache, and responded to by Mr. G.A.M. Hills, of the B.B.C., 'Schools and Places of Learning,' proposed by Mr. Charles Chivers and responded to by Miss Elizabeth Dall of the 'Cultura Inglesa,' and 'Johnsonians the World Around,' proposed by Dr. William Poole; Music will be provided by the Craftsmen's Chorus who will sing the Johnson Anthem and by Mr. F.W. Gledhill who will sing Leveridge's "When Dull Care."

Miscellaneous News Items

No matter how hard we all try, it appears there is no keeping up with Yale. The Boswell Papers are now in New Haven, and on a recent visit to that city your editor was proudly taken by Fritz Liebert to see a "Johnsonian Tavern," at Arch and Congress streets. We give up, green with envy.

From Joseph Wood Krutch comes a reference to a wonderful passage in Somerset Maugham's A Writer's Note-Book, just published. Maugham writes: "Having read all the great novels of the world two or three times I can no longer read them with relish.... I have never cared to read books on subjects that were in no way my concern.... I can read everything that pertains to Dr. Johnson and almost everything that pertains to Coleridge, Byron and Shelley." As Krutch aptly puts it, "The distinction made between 'everything' and 'almost everything' seems to put Samuel in the most favored position."

We welcome to our shores this fall two 18th century scholars from abroad: Claude Colleer Abbott, Professor of English at the University of Durham, and discoverer of the Fettercairn Boswell papers; and Pierre Legouis, Professor of the University of Lyon, who has specialized on Dryden. They are visiting universities in this country to study American educational methods.

Early in July a plaque commemorating Sarah Siddons's association with Cheltenham, England, was unveiled at a hotel in Pittville St., where she had appeared with a troupe of strolling players in a con-

verted stable, before her performances were brought to the notice of Garrick. A number of celebrated actors and actresses were present at the ceremony

We are always glad to see the Periodical Post Boy (June), full of news for newspaper and magazine researchers; and the October Seventeenth Century News Letter, edited by Arthur Coom at Sampson, N.Y.

Two recent publications describing the resources and policies of Folger Library are to be recommended to you: a pamphlet of 13 pages giving a brief description of the library, dated 1949, and Giles E. Dawson's "The resources and policies of the Folger Shakespeare Library" in *The Library Quarterly*, for July. Under the leadership of Louis Wright the Folger Library is taking great strides in the process of making its treasures available to larger numbers of scholars.

An announcement of great importance is the news that The Clark Library (Los Angeles 7, Calif.) has become publisher for the Augustan Reprint Society. From now on communications concerning subscriptions and back copies should be addressed to the Library. The price is still \$2.50 in the U.S. and \$2.75 abroad. H. Richard Archer has been added to the board of General Editors.

To be noted is the sale at Sotheby's on May 31 (lot 536) of a series of 43 autograph letters of Matthew Prior to the Earl of Jersey, together with a number of letters from other people.

When in London this summer, we were delighted to see the exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery of the Kneller Kit Cat portraits. A nineteen page catalogue describing the 42 portraits, which came to the Nation in 1945, is on sale for sixpence — a valuable addition to the library of any teacher of the Restoration and early 18th century. Reproductions of the paintings may be secured, the post card size for 4 pence each.

Honoring George Sherburn, there will be an 18th century dinner on December 29 in New York City. The place will be the Men's Faculty Club of Columbia University, and anyone interested in Alexander Pope and his contemporaries will be welcomed. Mark this date on your calendar. Further details will be announced later in the autumn.

Projects

In our last issue we included three suggestions of projects which might well be undertaken. What follows is the gist of various communications we have received about them.

Concerning the third proposal, Frances S. Fink (104 Clar: Rd., Brookline 46, Mass.) writes: "If no one has taken on the project, I should like to work up a check-list of 18th century portraits with literary associations." The idea of course, would be to list all 18th century portraits in America having any connection with writers and literary works — in museums, in private collections, etc. Will those of our readers who are able to help Frances Fink please write to her with suggestions and notes concerning the whereabouts of portraits. Advice also as to the details which should be included in the listings will be much appreciated.

Referring to the second suggestion, readers will be glad to know that R.D. Altick (Ohio State) is well advanced with a book on the general topic of adventures in literary research. In it there is to be a chapter on the matter of burned literary treasures. Any readers who can supply information about the destruction of important literary material, by antagonistic and misguided possessors, should get in touch with Altick. We are sure he would also be glad to hear of romantic and spectacular research adventures, other than those, like the discovery of the Boswell papers, which are well known.

John Butt (Newcastle) writes about the other proposal: "Let me say that I hope you will be able to adopt Hooker's suggestion of lists of scholarly works still in print. It is difficult enough at times to find out what O.U.P. and C.U.P. books are out of print, but our librarian seems to find it almost impossible to discover whether American University Press Books can still be had." Can we inveigle some enthusiastic members into carrying out this bit of research, the resulting lists (secured from the various Presses) to be included in later J.N.L. issues? Any volunteers?

Percy Scholes writes from Switzerland that he is completing his life of Sir John Hawkins. Many of us have recognized for a long time that a complete and fair biography of Hawkins is much to be desired.

Reference Guide to Literature of Travel

The third volume of E.G. Cox's (University of Washington) immensely valuable Reference Guide to Literature of Travel has just reached us (Vol. 12 of the University of Washington Publications in Language and Literature). A huge mass of information, it will be quarried by students and scholars for years to come. Scores of doctoral dissertations will undoubtedly develop from it. Earlier

volumes had to do with travelers to the far corners of the earth; this one is concerned with Great Britain (the discovery of Ireland, etc., is put off until Vol. IV). As in former volumes, the travel information is divided into separate sections: tours by natives, tours by foreigners, descriptions, views, towns, castles and seats, London, the Universities, spas, canals and rivers, geography, gardening, aids to travelers, bibliographies, to name only about half of the categories. An index of personal names is included at the end of this 732 page book. With a coverage from the early days of printing to the 1940's, this is a scholar's tool for which all of us will be eternally grateful.

Recent Books

Gilbert Highet's (Columbia) The Classical Tradition, just published by the Clarendon Press, is a 763 page book, whose topic almost staggers the imagination. Highet calls his work "an outline of the chief ways in which Greek and Latin influence has moulded the literatures of western Europe and America." Beginning with Anglo Saxon poetry, he surveys in a trenchant style the literary influences up to Joyce and Sartre. Obviously, the attempt to cover such a tremendous subject means that almost every expert will be dissatisfied with the treatment accorded his own particular field. It was perhaps inevitable that your editor would be perturbed by the treatment of Pope and Johnson, as well as other 18th century figures. Surely the "Rape of the Lock" is more than merely "the prettiest of all mock-heroic satires." And we think "The Vanity of Human Wishes" deserves more than cursory mention. But these are minor cavils. Everyone will recognize that this is a considerable achievement - a remarkable pulling together of a huge mass of information and commentary.

R.C. Boys' (Michigan) Sir Richard Blackmore and the Wits (University of Michigan Contributions in Modern Philology, No. 13) is a valuable study of the literary controversy growing out of the publication of Commendatory Verses on the Author of the Two Arthurs and the Satyr against Wit in 1700. Boys discusses the background of the literary battle, what is known about the publication and authorship of the poems, etc., and gives an accurate printing of the texts of the Commendatory and Discommendatory Verses. In various appendixes is included information concerning the attributions of authorship. Provided with a useful index,

this is an important addition to our knowledge of the period.

Under the title Jeremy Bentham: Bicentenary Celebrations Tuesday 8 June 1948 the University of London has issued a pamphlet which includes two major addresses: Charles W. Everett (Columbia), "The Constitutional Code of Jeremy Bentham," and Bernard Gagnebin (University of Geneva), "Jeremy Bentham et Etienne Dumont" (in French).

Recently published is Francesco Cordasco's (Long Island University) Bibliography of Junius: with a Preliminary Essay on the Political Background, Text, and Identity (Burt Franklin publishers, 170 Broadway, N.Y. City). Included are full notices of the editions of the Letters, general references and bibliographies, and critical studies. There are eight Appendices, including materials needed in the consultation of the bibliographical entries. The work was originally undertaken by Cordasco when he acquired five years ago the papers of Sir David Brewster, a collector of Juniana for thirty years.

Since our last issue James R. Foster's History of the Pre-romantic Novel in England (P.M.L.A. publication) has appeared. Recently published in England (we haven't yet seen a copy) is Norman Ault's New Light on Pope.

Other books which should be listed are: D.G. James, The Life of Reason: Hobbes, Locke, Bolingbroke; Abraham Cowley: Poetry and Prose (with Sprat's Life and Observations by Dryden, Addison, Johnson, etc.), edited by L.C. Martin; Barnard Blackstone, English Blake; A. Tindal Hart, The Life and Times of John Sharp; Madeleine Masson, Lady Anne Barnard; Mary Woodall, Thomas Gainsborough; William C. Smith, A Bibliography of the Musical Works Published by John Walsh during the Years 1695-1720 (London Bibliographical Society)—an excellent work in a difficult field.

Some Recent Articles

As usual we list a number of articles, with no particular attempt at order or chronology: Dougald MacMillan, "Clark Edition of Dryden — the Plays" (a statement of plans for editing) in South Atlantic Bulletin (M.L.A.) for May 1949; Arthur Sherbo, "Sir Foppling Flutter and Beau Hewitt" in N & Q for July 9; John Loftis, "'Sir John Falstaffe's' Theatre" in JEGP for April.

Ralph M. Albaugh, "Dryden's Literary Relationships, 1689-1700," reprinted from Abstracts of Doctoral Dissertations, Ohio State

University, 1949; Edward Stone, "Swift and the Horses: Misanthropy or Comedy?" in MLQ for September; W.L. MacDonald, "Augustan Personalities" in Queens Quart. for Summer 1949; Floyd Medford, "The 'Essay on Man,' etc., appearing in N & Q for August 6; Robert C. Elliott, "Hume's 'Character of Sir Robert Walpole': Some Unnoticed Additions" in JEGP for July; H.S. Offler, "Edward Gibbon and the Making of His 'Swiss History'" in Durham University Journal for March; F.H. Amphlett Micklewright, "Dr. John Gordon: an Eighteenth Century Convert to Rome" in N & Q for September 3; A.D. McKillop, "Wedding Bells for Pamela," in PQ for April.

Samuel Kliger, "Whig Aesthetics: a Phase of Eighteenth Century Taste" in *ELH* for June; M.H. Abrams, "Archetypal Analogies in Criticism" (contains remarks on Gerard's *Essay on Genius*) in *University of Toronto Quart*. for July; René Wellek, "The Concept of 'Romanticism' in Literary History. I. The Term 'Romantic' and Its Derivatives" in *Comparative Literature* for Winter 1949, and "II. The Unity of European Romanticism" in the Spring number.

W.H. Smith-Mandin, "Old English Newspapers" (1745-1825) in Quart. Review for July; A.D. McKillop, "Bonnell Thornton's Burlesque Ode" in N & Q for July 23; George L. Phillips, "Mrs. Montagu and the Climbing-Boys" in RES for July; Lodwick Hartley, "The Worm and the Thorn: a Study of Cowper's Olney Hymns" in Journal of Religion for July; Kenneth M. Hamilton, "William Blake and the Religion of Art" in Dalkousie Review for July.

Perhaps also to be mentioned is René Wellek's review of George Sherburn's history of our period in MP for August.

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Forthcoming Books

In recent announcements by publishers there are various volumes which will be of interest to our readers. The Yale University Press is bringing out Charles Kerby-Miller's edition of the Nemoirs of Nartinus Scriblerus, and Thomas Copeland's Our Eminent Friend Edmund Burke. From Princeton will come the Poems by Christopher Smart, edited by Robert Brittain, and E.B.O. Borgerhoff's The Freedom of French Classicism. The Syracuse University Press is publishing Diderot Studies, edited by Otis E. Fellows and Norman L. Torrey.

In the new printing of the Mermaid series of English dramatists, A.A. Wyn, publishers, announce that Congreve, Vanbrugh and Farquhar are already available, and Wycherley and Dryden (2 vols) probably ready. In preparation are Otway, Steele, Shadwell, etc. For teachers

of the novel there are cheap reprints of Beckford's Vathek, the selected novels of Aphra Behn, and Lewis's The Monk, all produced by The Grove Press. In preparation is Maturin's Melmoth the Wanderer.

Barnes and Noble has reissued Vols. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10 of E.A. Baker's History of the English Novel, and the other volumes are scheduled for early publication.

Other volumes recently announced are: Stuart Piggott's William Stukeley: an Eighteenth Century Antiquary (O.U.P.); Winifred Carter's Dr. Johnson's "Dear Mistress" (Selwyn & Blount); Pope and His Contemporaries: Essays Presented to George Sherburn (Clarendon Press).

Mackenzie Papers

We owe to Jim Osborn news of the sale at Sotheby's on July 28 of the collection of manuscripts of Henry Mackenzie, gathered together by Miss Fanny Mackenzie of Edinburgh, and sold by the great-great-grandson of the novelist. Included are letters of Burns, Hume, Thomas Campbell, Elizabeth Fry, Landor, etc. There are also important manuscripts of Mackenzie, letters to his wife and friends, a holograph character of Edmund Burke, the manuscripts of his life of John Horne, of The Nan of the World, and other works. What intrigues us in the description is the manuscript of a "Book of Egotisms" — over 400 pages in his handwriting, prepared for the press, arranged under headings: Criticism, patronage, John Wilkes, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Edinburgh Assembly, etc.

Recent Johnsoniana

Three recent articles having to do with Johnson are: Gwin J. Kolb, "Johnson's 'Dissertation on Flying' and John Wilkins' Mathematical Magick" in NP for August; J.R. Moore. "Dr. Johnson and Roman History" in Hunt Library Quart. for May; and Allen Tate, "Johnson on the Metaphysicals" in Kenyon Review for Summer, 1949. Two recent discussions of Boswell are contained in Mitchell Wells' "James Boswell and the Modern Dilemma" in SAQ for July; and Melvin R. Watson's "'Momus' and Boswell's Four" (a parody of Boswell in the Westminster Mag. for November, 1785) in JEGP for July. R.W. Chapman describes the "Hyde Collection of Johnsonian Manuscripts" in TLS for September 23.